

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 03809 081052Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EUR-12 /073 W

----- 064397

R 080846Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

US MISSION USUN 1059

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 3809

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CG, US

SUBJECT: GOZ RESTRICTIONS ON PLACE OF WORSHIP

REF: A. STATE 103362 B. KINSHASA A-84 C. MEMCON REV. PRIEB,
JANUARY 17, 1975 (AF/C)

1. SOURCES HERE CONFIRM THAT ORDER CITED REF (A) WAS SENT TO ALL REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS AND COMMUNICATED TO CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES, HOWEVER, RESIDENT PRESBYTERIAN REPRESENTATIVE (AMCIT) WHO RECENTLY RETURNED TO KINSHASA FROM KASAI ADVISES THAT NO ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO ENFORCE RESTRICTIONS IN THAT AREA. IN HIS OPINION ANY ATTEMPT AT SERIOUS ENFORCEMENT WOULD CAUSE SHARP POPULAR REACTION. PRO-NUNCIO HERE, ALSO AWARE OF ORDER, IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT WHAT HE REGARDS AS ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIAS OF GOZ POLICY BUT ADMITS IMPLEMENTATION HAS VARIED

WIDELY, TENDING GENERALLY TO NON-ENFORCEMENT. FOR OTHER INDICATORS OF THIS TYPE RESTRICTION SEE REFS (B) AND (C).

2. COMMENT: GIVEN SLACK ENFORCEMENT, FORMAL PROTECT BY CHURCHES AT THIS STAGE WOULD PROBABLY BE TACTICAL ERROR. POSSIBILITY OF USG INTERVENTION IS LIMITED BY FACT THAT - WHATEVER FINANCIAL AND MORAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED - ALL MISSIONS HERE EXIST AS ZAIRIAN LEGAL
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ENTITIES. STRICTLY SPEAKING, ALL THEIR PROBLEMS ARE INTERNAL ZAIRIAN

AFFAIRS. LOCAL CHURCHES MIGHT ARGUE THAT RESTRICTIONS VIOLATE
LIBERTIES GIVEN QUALIFIED PROTECTION UNDER ARTICLES 18, 21 AND 24
OF ZAIRIAN CONSTITUTION, AS WELL AS BEING SET FORTH IN UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, TO WHICH ZAIRE SUBSCRIBES. IN A PINCH
AN ATTEMPT MIGHT BE MADE TO RAISE QUESTION IN UNCHR. FOR PRESENT,
EMBASSY BELIEVES USG POLICY OF INTERESTED NEUTRALITY IS BEST.
NEWLIN

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